

NEW NATIONAL ERA.

VOL. V.—NO. 19.

WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY, MAY 28, 1874

{ \$2.50 a year in advance.
5 Copies for \$10.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE STATES AND TERRITORIES.

(The New National Era does not hold itself responsible
for views expressed by correspondents. Well written
and interesting communications will be gladly received.)

From South Carolina.

COLUMBIA, S. C., May 10, 1874.

The case has been thoroughly argued. The decision has been rendered. Carolinian Republicanism has received, without injury, another malicious attack of deep, designing enemies. Like Petroleum V. Nasby, I had, not long since, a dream. "Methawt I wuz in a bldin, where I cooldent make out. I methawt I seed a sight I cooldent picto-rate. I cood, however, see that certain pur-suns was tryin to kill a huge monstus gaint with somethin from bottles labeled "Enor-mous Debt," "Land Swindle," "Extrava-gance," "Legalized Robbery," "Excessive Taxation," and many other things too num-berous to mention. I seed the individuals give them drinks to the victim, wch, by the way, they called "The Prostrate State." "He shuddered as he swallowed them ez he took his last and final shudder." Then friends in human form thart they had killed him, and, therefore, begun "to excoed" a demotic triumph song. But all on a sudden the giant gave a terrific gasp, followed by heave after heave, which enabled him to free himself from them awful drinks, and to rise up before the country and show that he cood-ent stomach such things as them had men tried to make him swallow.

Thus have we triumphed. Our party was overbowed by its enemies. The tax-payers, (2) without that foresight and skill which they, as men of talent, learning, and expe-rience, ought to have, go to the President, Congress, and the country with false state-ments, faulty logic, perverted law, and bun-comb phrases about "no taxation without representation;" and in this very way give the Republican party of the State an opportu-nity to lay before the public a true state-ment of the condition of things, and thus show that affairs here are "cross-wise" only to those much oppressed Democrats who be-lieve in their divine right to rule.

We were not surprised when our dele-gation, saying, like the old Roman veteran, "Veni, vidi, vici." Every fair-minded per-son sees that South Carolina is not "the black sheep" of the American fold. Every one must admit that she is simply passing through a revolutionary struggle, a transi-tion period, with terrible odds against her, as they have always been, under similar cir-cumstances, against other governments, and as they will always be, so long as human nature shall warrant the philosopher's declaration, "Errare humanum est."

It must have been hard for our old-line "State-rights" to invoke Congressional interference in the affairs of a sovereign State. But men sometimes stuff their whole lives, surrender long-cherished principles, perhaps bequeathed into them by their fathers, for the purpose of gaining an influence which must certainly prove only temporary, or get-ting an office which must surely last but for a day. If it be true that the spirits of the dead mingle with the forms of the living, then "old John C." must be filled with rage at the sight of Carolinians thus proving recreant to their fathers' faith.

The tax-payers, (2) for several reasons, have utterly failed in their efforts to overturn our ship of State. We shall, most assuredly, benefit by their mistakes, and appropriate to ourselves the good which they have uninten-tionally done us. We, who live in these parts, understand the Democrats much bet-ter than the generality of our countrymen. This is perfectly natural. We sometimes get "a peep behind the scenes." The tax-payers (2) have said much about an op-pressed, overtaxed people; but our dele-gation were right when they said that the memorialists were without any constituency immediately at their backs. The poor whites, whose condition in ante-bellum days like that of the slaves appealed to the sympathies of the philanthropist, rejoice in the new order of things as well as his African brethren. No longer are they comparatively for-cibly shut up in pens, poorly fed, to be brought forth on election day to vote at the beck and nod of a Hampton or a Rickett. Says Emerson, "march without the people, and you march into night." The tax-payers (2) marched without the people, and they have marched to defeat.

It is known here that the recent move-ment against Republicanism in South Car-olina had its origin among certain Charleston brokers and lawyers who want to control the State government so as to run it in the in-terest of "their pet bonds." Lieber, in his Heremeneutics, warns us against mistaking our private views and interests for public wishes or demands—against confounding our individuality with public welfare. This, our tax-payers (2) have done; and, in conse-quence thereof, they have failed.

What course the Democrats will pursue yet remains to be seen. Will they support an honest Republican for Governor? I hope that they will exercise some of the common sense exhibited by the great prophet of Allah on a certain occasion: "If the mountain won't come to Mahomet, then Mahomet will go to the mountain." The Republican party cannot turn aside to the Porters and Ma-graths. Will they come to the party? Will they aid us in our efforts to correct abuses? "Ah? There's the rub"—the "us." We shall watch, with the deepest interest, their course in the coming campaign. We believe, however, that they will not give aid to any Republican movement, no matter if it should be led by men whose public careers and private characters will stand the test of microscopic scrutiny. The Democrats seem to act on the principle that all Republicans are dishonest—that they themselves are God's "peculiar people," especially chosen to lift up "the prostrate State." So long as they shall continue to hug this delusion to their bosoms, and to wrap themselves up in their worse than English aristocracy, so long will they have neither voice nor influence in our government.

I may at another time show you that the

Democrats who controlled Charleston from 1871 to 1873 left the city last fall in a pretty bad financial condition. Do not misunder-stand me. The Bourbons were all right. It was "the city by the sea" that was all wrong." I can only stop, however, to cite one instance of Democratic extravagance.

The expenditures of last year by the Bour-bon city government exceeded the enormous sum of one million dollars!! The Republican State government, with all its officers, courts of justice, its thousands of schools, its penal and charitable institutions only exceeded that amount by about two hundred thousand dol-lars. No comment necessary.

There seems to be a genuine spirit of re-form among us. "A tidal wave" has been set in motion which will sweep our State from the seaboard to the mountains. Not long since a defaulting county treasurer was tried, convicted, and sentenced to pay a fine of two thousand dollars, and to take up his abode with the erring in the penitentiary for twelve months. Those who have been tam-pering with our finances will soon be made to feel that our "halls of justice are indeed in truth temples of the living God."

Our treasurer has just taken a step which, in the present condition of things, is to the State what the President's late veto is to the country. Certain Democratic creditors, who are consulting their pockets rather than the interests of the State, demand the treasurer to issue some three hundred thousand dollars of certificates of indebtedness—in other words, they want to inflate our State money. This Mr. Cardozo has wisely refused to do, although the creditors flourish in his face a legislative act touching the case. They have applied to our Supreme Court for a mandamus to compel the Treasurer "to inflate the cur-rency of the State." I cannot now enter into a discussion of this question, for my letter has already grown too lengthy. It is suffi-cient here to say that the Treasurer's side of the question will be ably and eloquently ar-gued by the Attorney General, Elliott, and Chamberlain.

The Treasurer's position, if sustained by the Court—and we believe it will be—must redound to his credit and to the good of the State. The Attorney General, in corre-sponding with him on the subject, says, "I shall take occasion most earnestly to com-mend your action in declining to perform this office as an earnest of your purpose in com-munion with myself and others to leave no effort untold to stem the tide of extravagance and corruption which now threatens to en-gulf the Republic." To show that there is vitality in the old Palmetto State her roots need to be watered. Certain birds of prey must be driven from her branches. Then will she spread forth her wings in more than her original glory. Then will she overshadow alike the proud scions of the Pinckneys and the humble descendants of their slaves.

From Ohio.

MOUNT PLEASANT, Ohio, May 19, 1874.

Sir:—My visit to this place being nearly closed (except an invitation to preach to the white Presbyterians on next Sabbath), I thought I would furnish you with some items of what I see and learn in this portion of the State.

Quakerism is predominant. True to the principles of freedom, yet no great sticklers for equality. This is so almost universally among that sect. Their peculiar religious tenets they strictly adhere to. They conceal beneath their plain, modest, unassuming demeanor, more real pride than any people I know. I don't mean by this that they are hypocritical, but that it is, from long habit, become second nature. They really think they are not proud, but, on the contrary, quite the reverse.

I speak of Quakers not being disposed to favor or recognize negro equality. Is not this true of a very large majority of the American people?

It is easy to make platforms and pass res-olutions, but it is quite difficult to live up to them. Platforms are but cobwebs, one wind strong and boisterous of public sentiment will blow them all away. Platforms are made for party purposes—it is like sweetened water, or molasses set to catch flies, and white people, especially politicians, un-derstand this. Negroes are easily entrapped and gulled by the artifice. Why, before the last Presidential election, so much love for the negro, at the Republican and Liberal Republican conventions, assembled to make nominations for the Presidency? Echo answers: Why? The reason is as clear and apparent as the noon-day sun. Whatever could be done to retard the Civil-Rights Bill in Congress, by both parties, seems to have been resorted to. The Democrats by op-position "in to to," and the Republicans—some of them—to some of its provisions, and by motions to delay its consideration, although it was the first bill on the calendar—first that was presented—yet now it must be set aside by other bills of more importance,—finance, Geneva award, bad amendments by the Republicans and such like, and the session being near its close, what does this apathy and indifference mean? Are the Republicans who could have at any time since the present session commenced (yea, at any time during the last two years) passed the Civil-Rights Bill, I say, are they watching the political horizon to determine whether or not they can go into the next Presidential campaign with this load on their backs? Are they disposed to be governed by the remark of the Hon. Mr. Carpenter, of Wis-consin, when discussing the Pinchback case? If others choose to go into the next Presi-dential campaign with it, he would not. It was not the righteousness of the cause but the political expediency which he condemned. I must confess the negro is a mighty burden, but he is now a part of the political element of our country, and he has now the same power to vote—either party up or down, as the parties in power used to have of voting him up or down.

It may be said that the Republican party has lifted the negroes up and made men and citizens of them. Manhood and citizenship without equal rights in a Republican form of government is a nullity. As some of our

people pray to Almighty God that past bless-ings will not suffice, so say I—ever admitting that pure principle, and not political necessity nor political expediency had anything to do with it. Past blessings will not suffice. We must have every right guaranteed by law to any other person. We have in all good con-science, been without the enjoyment of any rights long enough to justify this demand. I think I speak advisedly when I say that if the Republican party wish to retain their ac-cendency in this government, they must pass that bill the present session of Congress, for the leading, thinking, solid, sober and sensible men (who are true to their race), all are tired and sick of the tardiness and indif-ference with which this measure has been treated. I sincerely hope and pray that be-fore I write to you again, the bill will have become a law, and if so, the colored people will become a unit, and the Republican party need entertain no fears respecting its future.

In Wheeling I formed the acquaintance of Mr. Wm. F. Gaskins. He is quite a power there to a good, a refined gentleman, and decidedly intelligent. He has charge of the District common school (colored), and his brother, Mr. Joseph Champ, occupies a like position. The latter gentleman is also a person of high character and ability. Both are strongly in favor of the Civil-Rights Bill, especially the provision relating to the schools, although they are teachers. This is a degree of unselfishness seldom exhibited among colored teachers.

Yours for the right,

WM. E. WALKER.

P.S. I got on a political vein and came near forgetting the object of this letter. The colored people here are doing tolerably well. In Bridgeport a colored school taught by a white lady is quite well attended; for my letter also two colored churches here—Methodist and Baptist—both doing quite well.

The Rev. Mr. Word preaches for the Baptist. He was formerly of Galipolo. The people are disposed to be kind, but have not yet learned one very important lesson, to work that they should not receive some-thing for nothing. They are very anxious and willing to receive one's labors, but he must give his labors free. It is as much as they can do to take care of themselves, they think and so they speak. I did not dis-cover much energy and enterprise among them. Very few, comparatively, own property.

Steubenville is little if any better, although it is one of the oldest towns in the State. There is at present no place of worship among the colored people there and only one organized church of the A. M. E. denomina-tion. I was not a little surprised. There is a colored school there, presided over by Mr. Brewer, a fine teacher, and a man of charac-ter and ability. I know not his views on the Civil-Rights Bill as to schools. He has a goodly number of children. And here let me say that the want of cleanliness on the part of the children, as was there generally ex-hibited, was one of the greatest objections which the whites had to mixed schools. It is a downright, burning shame that parents will allow their children to attend schools half clad, dirty and filthy. I expressed my-self to Mr. B., who admitted the force of my argument, and said it was the most difficult matter he had to overcome. It is a parent's duty to raise their children to habits of cleanliness and industry. The people out here seem to be industrious, but do not make much headway.

I shall leave here next week for some other point of the compass, and shall chroni-cle things as I find them in the meantime.

Let our people throughout the land main-tain a solid front in demanding what we are entitled to, and in the meantime do all they can to remove all objections, so far as man-ness, gentility, intelligence, and the accu-mulation of wealth are concerned, and then we can defy comparison.

Yours, etc.

W. E. W.

From Virginia.

W. B. DERRICKS.

To the Editor of the New National Era.

The consideration of the present "Civil Rights Bill," which has just passed the Senate, has brought about much discussion as to its legality and beneficial effects upon the country at large.

But there is one clause which seems to have elicited more comment and discussion than any others. I allude now to the com-mon schools.

Hon. John W. Johnston, United States Senator from Virginia, while addressing the Senate lately on this clause, took occasion to refer to some remarks made by the Rev. W. B. Derricks, a colored preacher, in Rich-mond.

Mr. Derricks, in the course of a sermon, made some remarks derogatory of this clause of the Civil Rights Bill. Mr. Derricks says it is impossible to wipe out in ten years the prejudice that has existed for two hundred and fifty years.

Sir, in this we agree with him; but he should remember that this bill does not, and cannot, wipe out this prejudice in ten years or twenty years. Perhaps a whole genera-tion may pass away before it is wiped out. In the consideration of this question we leave prejudice to take care of itself. All we look to is its legality and constitutionality. Re-membering that the colored man, by the Con-stitution of the United States, is a citizen thereof; and that as the citizen of the United States, pay the same taxes, and are amenable to the same laws, it is strange that Mr. Derricks, on account of the prejudice which may exist towards his race, should be willing to sacrifice the most important of his rights. Mr. Boutwell, in his recent speech upon civil rights, truly said, that the whites and blacks are to rule this country together; and that to break down prejudice and bring about the much needed good feeling between the whites and blacks of all sections, they should be taught together from their infancy in the common schools of this country. We have heard many declarations from Mr. Derricks with regard to the equality of the races. The writer remembered well during a public meeting in Richmond last fall how this gen-tleman indirectly argued the necessity of such a bill. In private conversation with him he has often praised the efforts of young colored men to become educated and to be

the rivals of the whites. And I informed that he has privately spoken in favor of the very clause which he, in a semi-political ser-mon, condemned.

When Mr. Sumner died, who was requested to preach a memorial sermon by the colored citizens of Richmond? W. B. Derricks. When the celebration of the fifteenth cent place, who was requested to deliver the oration? W. B. Derricks. Now he, having received the plaudits and approbation of his fellow-citizens for these endeavors in their behalf, seeks to have them proclaim their inferiority to the white race by following his ill-advised and pernicious advice.

Sir, the efforts of the Rev. gentleman may have received what he so much desired, the plaudits of "Ellyson's Dispatch," and that quasi-Republican paper the "State Journal." But he has received the merited condemna-tion of his race, and beyond doubt the con-tempt of the young colored men of Virginia who are forced, by the same prejudice which he upholds, to go to other universities in order to obtain an education. Temporary plaudits from Democrats are not to be com-pared to the lasting powers of one's own race.

To-day, sir, in the State of Virginia there are numbers of schools and colleges supported by the State taxes. Into those colleges, though supported by the taxes of the State, no colored young man dares to put his foot. This is what Mr. Derricks upholds. In Richmond a rule was made that the white children should walk on one side of the street and the colored on the other. Mr. Derricks favors this discrimination. White children receive lectures regularly, the colored chil-dren their a-b-a's, and are then sent home. Mr. Derricks thinks this is first-rate. When teachers' meetings are held there is a parti-tion between the whites and colored; the whites go out the front door, the colored out of the alley. Mr. Derricks thinks this is good enough for his race because they are inferior.

I have examined this gentleman's re-marks; and though he has produced nothing like an argument, yet I see that he is bitterly opposed to mixed schools. And nothing made me feel prouder of the colored citizens of Richmond than their assembling en masse to discuss the question of the Civil Rights Bill as reported from the committee, thus giving Derricks to under-stand that his remarks upon this clause did not meet their approval. There has been much talk about the mixed school clause working a direful effect upon the school sys-tem of Virginia; but allow me to say that nothing will do more good than this clause in that State; there are many portions of the State to-day in need of such a clause sys-tem, and particularly the Richmond district, where there are no schools on account of the paucity of white and colored children. If this clause is carried into effect these few white and colored children can be gathered into schools together, and I believe things will work harmoniously.

Sir, I enter this letter simply to inform you that the remarks of Mr. Derricks, the so-called leader of the colored people of Richmond, have had no effect upon the peo-ple there, and that he, a presumptuous man, and would-be leader, is, so far as this bill is concerned, snatched forever.

W. C. ROANE.

From Mississippi.

CANTON, Miss., April 22, 1874.

To the Editor of the New National Era.

I am glad that the Era is again made a welcome visitor in all parts of the land.

May the time speedily come when the so-called leading colored men of Washington will lay aside the many mountains of malice they hold against each other, and let the car of progress, civilization, morality and reform; equal, civil and public rights so dearly bought for us by the late Charles Sumner move from the capital into every hut and cabin of the low, and to the mansion of the opulent throughout the length and breadth of this dear land of ours, and clothe each citizen with a citizenship heretofore un-known and unenjoyed by a single man or woman in the republic—a citizenship hav-ing for its authority the Declaration of In-dependence and the Amendments to the Constitution, investing each subject with the whole panoply of both, acknowledging the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.

There is no man, be he black or white, or however humble in life, who does not feel that the colored race and their dearest inter-ests have received a severe check by the disgraceful conduct of some of those who assembled at—as some chose to it—"The Star-Chamber-Summer-Monument-Meeting," when viewed in the light for which it was called. It is just such wrangles as those to which I have referred, although not so dis-graceful among the leading colored men of Washington, assuming, and by some accord-ed, with the authority to speak for, the whole race that have retarded the passage of the Civil Rights Bill. Because of the want of harmony of action among the colored people at the capital the nation is, and has been doubting the propriety of passing so sweeping a measure as the one for which we have so long looked and so much desired. If the bill fails to pass, it will be the fault of those who are out of Congress, but live at the capital of the nation, and not those who are in Congress. What man can sum-mon ingratitude sufficient to believe that Mr. Elliott and the rest of his co-laborers have not satisfied the most sanguine expecta-tions by their manly and powerful speeches made in favor of the bill? Or who can cer-tainly even the resemblance of a doubt that Mr. Sumner, who baptized his whole life in, and consecrated all the powers of his great and imperial mind to the cause of our oppressed race did not do his whole duty and did it as no other could?

Merit is generally the basis of political preferment. So, also, is merit viewed in its broadest light the criterion for the confer-ment of Civil Rights. If Congress fail to pass the Civil Rights Bill, it will be because we, as a race, have not presented to the world great qualities embracing a high standard of moral rectitude.

Somewhat, Mr. J. Sella Martin seems to have our friend Geo. T. Downing in a very

close place on a question of veracity. For this I am sorry. It reminds me of an old maxim. It is this: "He who asserteth that the truth whereof he doth not know, differeth not essentially in the turpitude of his act from him who asserteth that the falsehood whereof he well knoweth."

The many millions who love to honor the names of their heroes are ready to unite with all the good people everywhere in a systematic and well-organized effort to erect a monument to the memory of one who was the greatest man of earth—the immortal Charles Sumner.

Hoping that none of the young Americans who advanced so bravely to the "front," nor the old ones who were so ignominiously forced to the rear, will again so disturb the sanctum of the NEW NATIONAL ERA, as to prevent its talented editors and managers from receiving the many hundreds of thou-sands of paid-up subscriptions that the Era so justly deserves, and for which please credit me with \$2.50.

Geo. W. ANDERSON.

From Mississippi.

HURRICANE, Miss., April 22, 1874.

To the Editor of the New National Era.

DEAR SIR:—This is one of the States, I believe, in which we can boast of having passed a civil rights bill, and here we ought to revel in that pure freedom which is not proscribed by mean prejudice, but we do not. The banner of which you boast is only an empty name floating so high that we cannot rest in its shade nor gaze upon its beauty. All of its hotels are strictly private, the same little proscribed bureau has its place on the steamboats, and colored passengers wishing to purchase at the bar, or procure tickets must "come around on the outside."

Think of it; the Lieutenant Governor of Mississippi, cannot obtain accommodations at a first class hotel in the State, neither can he enter the palatial cabin of a steamer. It is not because he is a miscreant, but because an unvarnished prejudice overrules justice and common humanity.

Looking at a paper which lay on the table yesterday, I saw in larger letters, this sen-tence: "THE NEGROES WILL NOT WORK." If the negro does not work, who does? Every plantation in the State that is cultivated at all, is tilled by negro hands, every boat and every car is sustained by negro labor, and the chief articles of commerce, are the products of negro labor. That incessant growl, the negro will not work, proceeds from a class that does not work, and is dependent upon the negro labor. Tradition has taught them to look upon the negro in no other light, than as hewers of wood and drawers of water. If the negro chooses his own time to work and wont be driven, he is "idle and shiftless."

Might has long governed Right, but justice is bowed only to conquer. It is to be re-membered that the actions of the public will be a book of Omen at a future period; when interest is stifled and passion is mute, when fear has ceased to agitate and discord is at rest, but conscience has resumed its sway in the human heart. Nothing but what is just can be expedient, because nothing else can secure the permanent concurrence of mankind.

Let the colored man roam wherever he will, beyond the boundary of progressive America, his home, and he is treated as a man and brother. Let him then, turn to-toward home, with his heart swelling in honest pride, his manly step quickened by the love he bears his country, his soul stirred with the enthusiasm of republican principles, he rushes upon the threshold, but no embrace awaits him, the door is closed, and the inmates scold at him. For what? Not that he is worthless, but because his noble heart beats in a bosom which the great and Almighty God has created with a twofold sin. Spurned and dejected, the hot blood rushes to his temples, but his large heart lets him turn not with indignation upon his loved home, he essays to speak; "Can it be that the broad wave of humanity does not swell in the bosom of my home, my country? Can it be that the grim despot, ignorance and prejudice rule there and sweep away even the small ripples of Christianity? O Shame! has thou no foothold upon enlightened America?"

Yours &c.

A. C. BARTLETT.

From Mississippi.

JACKSON, Miss., May 22, 1874.

Editor New National Era.

Allow me a brief space in your worthy journal to correct a manifestly wrong impres-sion under which you are laboring. I know you have been imposed upon, and I feel it my duty to give you light.

In your issue of the 14th inst., you gave Col. G. Wiley Wells, of this State, more credit than is due him. You stated that he is one of the leading Republicans of this State, and was a formidable opponent of Hon. B. K. Bruce, for the United States Senate. These are two glaring errors. His influence in this State is very limited, and for very good reasons. He seems to be one of those Republicans who think there is always time enough for colored men to hold offices. That we ought to wait until the present generation pass away and let our grand children enter the field of politics. That we ought to support such white men as he for positions, and let our leading colored men take back seats. I do not know of a solitary instance where he supported a colored person for a promi-nent position, unless it was some person who would rather reflect badly upon us. His actions when a candidate for the United States Senate against Hon. Mr. Bruce were such as to cause nearly every colored member of the Legislature to oppose him, and I doubt very much if he got more than two or three colored votes. When he found that he was as weak as water, as against Col. Bruce, he withdrew and became a candidate for General Ames' unexpired term, and in that was badly beaten.

If I had no stronger opponent for the Presidency of the United States than he was against Col. Bruce, I could safely extend to you now an invitation to dine with me at the White House on the fourth of March, 1877. Governor Ames and Hon. A. R. Howe, members of Congress from the second Dis-trict of this State, were staunch friends and

supporters of Col. Bruce, and we look upon them as the leading friends of the colored people of this State. If all our leading friends were as consistent as Col. G. Wiley Wells, we would have to exclaim: "Good Lord, deliver us!"

I write this not from any personal feeling against Col. Wells, but to correct the state-ment of his leadership among the Republi-cans of this State. If you knew his actions half so well as we do, I am sure you would not have given him the complimentary notice you did.

Yours,

JACK THE GIANT KILLER.

From South Carolina.

AIKEN, S. C., May 1874.

To the Editor of the New National Era.

Knowing that your columns are always open to correspondents from distant parts, I take occasion to pen you a few brief notes of people and things and of their doings here.

Since the return of the long-visaged and disappointed memorialists, with their carpet-bags stuffed full of Pub. Docs., and their arid appendages tingling with the indig-nant and well deserved reproaches of Presi-dent Grant, things have resumed their wonted tranquillity, and the Bourbonistic element lay almost dormant. Some of the leaders, effete and fossilized politicians of the Cal-houn creed, are trying to organize the dis-membered forces and bring them into the field at the coming campaign, but their efforts thus far have proved decidedly abortive—the poorer classes of white people refusing point blank to be led by the old aristocrat, ante-bellum days, the men who caused secession, and after the war began industri-ously bestirred themselves in filling their pockets, and leaving the fighting to the "poor blacks."

The coming campaign will be a hot one, if present appearances do not deceive. Moses, our present Governor, has deceived the people, and broken his pledge to the Republican party; and, in consequence of his bad doings, a reformatory movement will have to be inaugurated to preserve the dig-nity and power of Republicanism here; and, if I mistake not, a colored man will be the standard-bearer of the new reform move-ment. It is a conceded fact that the robbery, corruption, and venality charged upon the Republican party in this State have been caused by white men. They have profited by the robbery and corruption, and thrown the odium upon the shoulders of the colored people. Ask any Southern white man if he does not think the colored people of South Carolina are, with a few exceptions, honest and thrifty, and he will unhesitatingly an-swer you "Yes." I assert, without fear of contradiction, that it is so, and by the colored element alone that South Carolina will be purified and made prosperous. The blatant talk of the Democracy about the ignorance of the negro is all stuff and nonsense, and done merely for political effect. I have seen a good many legislative bodies whose actions were far worse than any I have witnessed in the Assembly of this State, and the Bourbon press take no heed of their ignorant display, but politely keep silent.

There is no fear of a Democratic victory in this State, no matter how much gas the Cop-perhead gentry may let off; for, though we might be very contiguous to the semi-barbaric State of Georgia, no fear need be entertained of our following in her footsteps.

Our people are anxious for the passage of the lamented Charles Sumner's life-long work, the Civil Rights Bill. It must become a law, for it is only a recognition of what God in-tended, and a carrying out of the doctrine of the universal brotherhood of man.

Bright, cheery weather, the sweet, balmy days of blue-eyed spring are upon us now, and the songs of birds, the odors of the flowers, the gentle rushing of the south breeze, all go to make the fact a fixed one.

With very many wishes that the progress of the Era shall still continue onward and upward until the great "bust up."

I am,

JUSTINIAN.

From Virginia.

RICHMOND, VA., May 10, 1874.

To the Editor of the New National Era.

It is curious in our political transition to notice how little respect there is for the col-ored man in the political body of which he forms so large a part in this city. Gentle-men who claim the colored vote on each recurring election, and do so too without any compunction whatever, predicate their right to it often on the incredulity of the masses, and are not much troubled about what they say on the hustings or anywhere in our po-litical gatherings. We expect the rank and file of the Democratic party to keep blazing at the top of their newspaper columns the false accusation that the colored people are seeking social equality with them. But when white Republicans make use of these state-ments in public meetings, and call upon us to make public denial of them, we have simply to remark that they do so intending it as a political heresy, that they may draw from the former party at our expense in an elec-tion, by our disclaiming any desire to become possessed of every right now claimed in the Civil Rights Bill. The school clause in that bill is manifestly very distasteful to our white Republican friends in this State. But it is now high time that every aspirant who ex-pects to wield the colored vote for his es-pcial advantage to understand that this sort of decanting upon our hopes and long denied rights will no longer avail those who resort to such subterfuges. No political aspirant in any other political party would dare hazard his success in refusing by insinuation, im-plication, or otherwise, one single particle of right to any class of men in his party; and the man in the Republican party who parleys under these rights as relates to colored men under such circumstances is not willing that we should have them even though he had it in his power to grant them; and it will be well for the colored people of Virginia to bare this in mind until they compel their po-litical white friends to decently and fully recognize all the right of which they are now denied. It will be impossible for us to attain to that social standing, both in and out of politics, which is so much desired, and the absence of which is now the bane of all that is yet to be attained for the colored man.

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The old curse of slavery has not yet been thrown off, and its influences still sticks to many of our people. In the days of that institution when one slave ran away to escape punishment, the master commanded all the rest to trail after him like a pack of "blood-hounds," until they caught and returned him to bondage. So now in politics, when a white Republican to the manor born, familiar with this insidious, politically stales a colored man, all he has got to do to have colored men justify his act is to fall back upon negro sur-veillance, and there are many ready to obey the old master.

From Alabama.

WETUMPKA, ALA., May 16, 1874.

To the Editor of the New National Era.

I notice in your paper of the 7th instant an article headed "The Folly, Tyranny, and Wickedness of Labor Unions," to which, as State Agent of the Alabama Labor Union, I beg space in the columns of your excellent "chronicler of passing events," to submit a line or two in reply.

In the first place I think that the assertion is rather broad when you speak so disparagingly of all Labor Unions without any excep-tion whatever. I condemn, Mr. Editor, as much as you possibly can, the evil practices of "demagogues," as in the instance cited by you of the Johnstown, Pennsylvania, organization; but, to class the entire Labor Unions of the country in the same category, I think unjust, to say the least.

In this State the laboring men are almost entirely colored, and in consequence of the cruel interdictory laws of ante-bellum times as to education, they are, as a class, in a de-plorable state of ignorance. But, ignorant as they are, they have